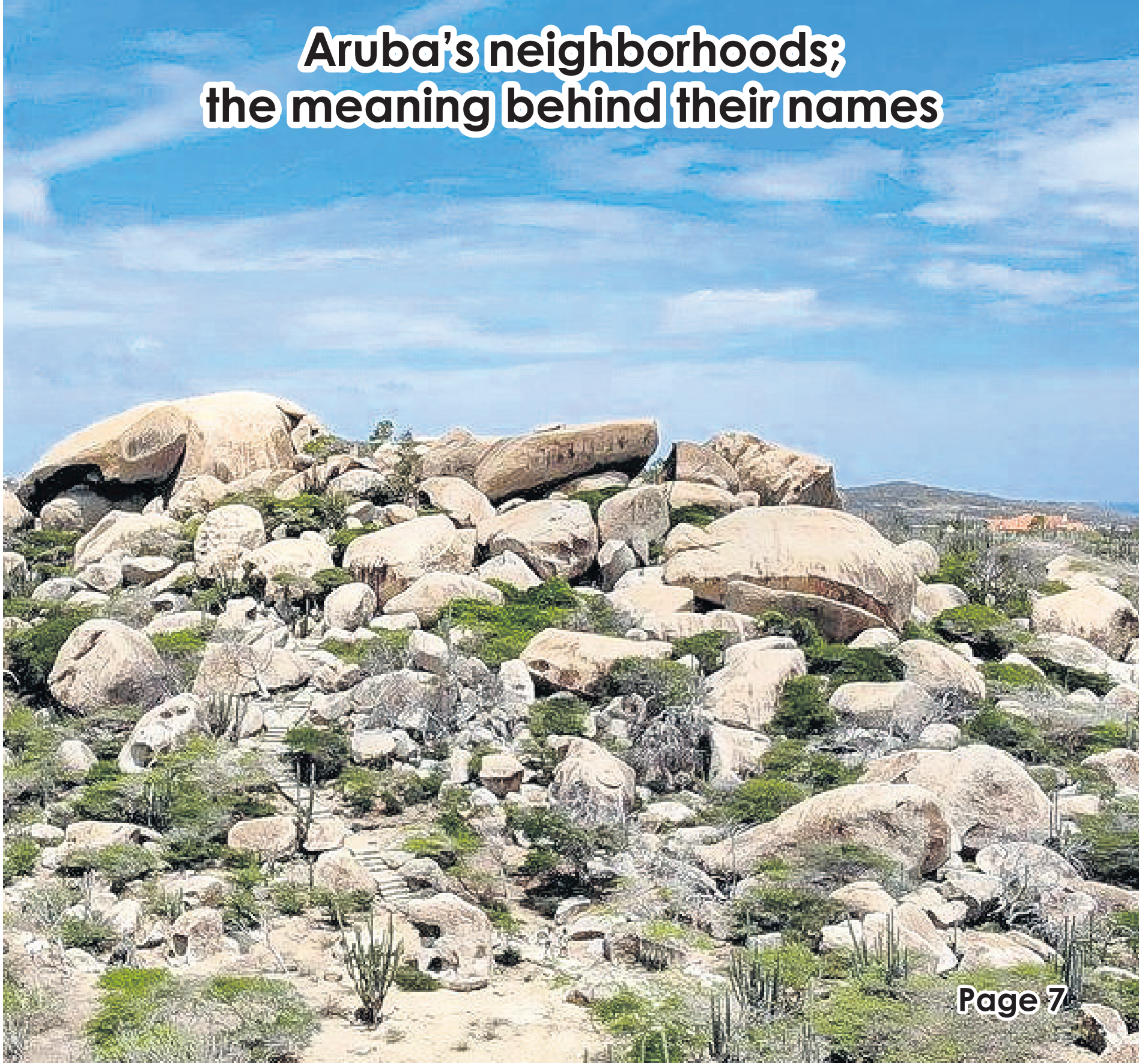




Aruba's neighborhoods; the meaning behind their names



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Supreme Court wrestles with nation's frustrating search for nuclear waste storage

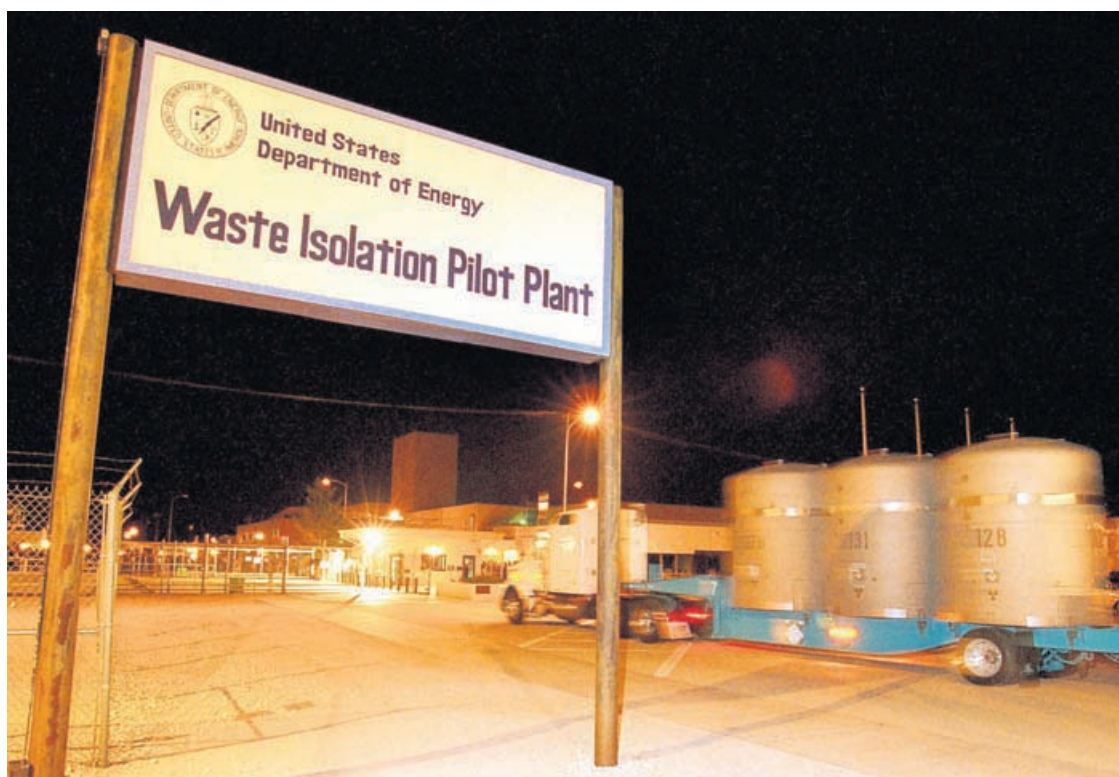
By **MARK SHERMAN**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Wednesday wrestled with whether to restart plans to temporarily store nuclear waste at sites in rural Texas and New Mexico even as some justices worried about safety issues and the lack of progress toward a permanent solution.

The justices heard arguments in a case that reflects the complicated politics of the nation's so far futile quest for a permanent underground storage facility. A plan to build a national storage facility northwest of Las Vegas at Yucca Mountain has been mothballed because of staunch opposition from most Nevada residents and officials.

The court took up a challenge by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and a private company with a license for the Texas facility to an appellate ruling that found the commission had no authority to grant the license. The outcome of the case will affect plans for a similar facility in New Mexico roughly 40 miles (65 kilometers) away.

The licenses would allow the companies to operate



The first load of nuclear waste arrives in Carlsbad, N.M., on March 26, 1999.

Associated Press

the facilities for 40 years, with the possibility of a 40-year renewal.

"That doesn't sound very interim to me," Justice Neil Gorsuch said, while also questioning the advisability of storing spent nuclear fuel "on a concrete platform in the Permian Basin, where we get all our oil and gas from."

Justices Samuel Alito and Clarence Thomas joined Gorsuch in asking questions

suggesting they were the most likely to uphold the ruling from the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Roughly 100,000 tons (90,000 metric tons) of spent fuel, some of it dating from the 1980s, is piling up at current and former nuclear plant sites nationwide and growing by more than 2,000 tons (1,800 metric tons) a year. The waste was meant to be kept there temporarily before

being deposited deep underground.

The NRC has said that the temporary storage sites are needed because existing nuclear plants are running out of room. The presence of the spent fuel also complicates plans to decommission some plants, the Justice Department said in court papers.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor, looking ahead to the United States' 250th anni-

versary next year, said, "I hope that we make it another 250, but if it takes 40 or 80 years for a solution to come, it would still be temporary, correct?"

Justice Department lawyer Malcolm Stewart agreed, noting that the spent fuel has to be kept somewhere, whether at operating and decommissioned plants or elsewhere.

Security also is cheaper with the waste in one or two locations, Stewart said, relying on arguments made by Interim Storage Partners LLC, the company with the Texas license.

Sotomayor, along with Justices Ketanji Brown Jackson, Elena Kagan and Brett Kavanaugh, seemed most inclined to reverse the 5th circuit. Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Amy Coney Barrett said little or nothing to reveal where they stand.

The NRC's appeal was filed by the Biden administration and maintained by the new Trump administration. Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, a Republican, and New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham, a Democrat, are leading bipartisan opposition to the facilities in their states. □

Los Angeles County sues Southern California Edison, alleging utility's equipment sparked wildfire

By **CHRISTOPHER WEBER**
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Los Angeles County said Wednesday that it's suing Southern California Edison, alleging the utility's equipment sparked January's Eaton Fire, which destroyed more than 9,400 structures and killed 17 people in the Altadena area.

The lawsuit seeks to recover costs and damages sustained from the blaze that damaged "essential community infrastructure" and "massively impacted the County's natural resources, harmed the environment and wildlife, and threatened public health," LA County said in a statement.

Additional costs have been incurred by county departments for ongoing support in assisting residents recovering from the fire's destruction, according to the lawsuit.



The Eaton Fire destroys a structure, Jan. 7, 2025, in Altadena, Calif.

Associated Press

"The County's case is essential to the restoration and rebuilding process for

the community, including residences and businesses, to recover from the devastation," the statement said. Edison was reviewing the lawsuit and "will address it through the appropriate legal process," utility spokesperson Kathleen Dunleavy said Wednesday.

The fire's cause is still under investigation.

The complaint alleges that witnesses, photos, and videos indicate the fire started directly under Edison transmission lines in Eaton Canyon.

The county seeks to recoup costs and receive compensation for destroyed infrastructure, recreational areas, parks, road damage,

cleanup and recovery efforts, flood and mudslide prevention, workers compensation claims, overtime for workers, lost taxes and more. Costs and damage estimates were expected to total hundreds of millions of dollars, the county said, adding that assessments were ongoing.

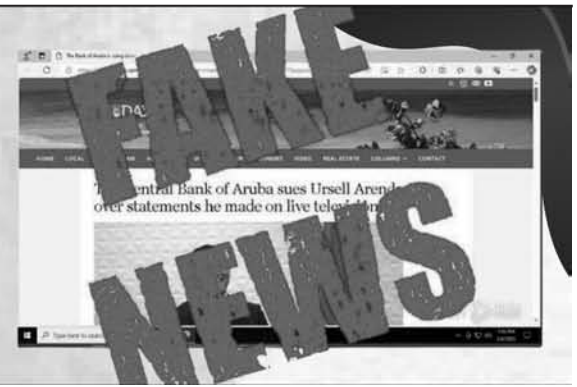
"We are committed to seeking justice for the Altadena community and the taxpayers of Los Angeles County," County Counsel Dawyn R. Harrison said in a statement.

The County, the County Flood Control District, and the County's Consolidated Fire Protection District are the plaintiffs in the case. □

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Mayors from Boston, Chicago, Denver and New York defend 'sanctuary' policies, call their cities safe

By REBECCA SANTANA and
TIM SULLIVAN WASHING-
TON

Associated Press (AP) — Democratic mayors of four major cities said Wednesday that Congress and the Trump administration are exaggerating crime committed by immigrants and attacking so-called sanctuary cities simply to score political points, as Republicans hammered the policies for shielding criminals and discouraging cooperation with federal officials. The comments came in a hearing before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, where Republicans accused the mayors of putting their cities in danger and undermining President Donald Trump's mass deportation efforts. Republicans have repeatedly highlighted crimes committed by immigrants who crossed illegally into the U.S., with Rep. James Comer opening the hearings by saying the policies "only create sanctuary for criminals."

But the Democratic mayors Michelle Wu of Boston, Brandon Johnson of Chicago, Mike Johnston of Denver and Eric Adams of New York pushed back hard, even as they seemed to carefully avoid using the term "sanctuary."

"We know there are myths about these laws. But we must not let mischaracterizations and fear mongering obscure the reality that Chicago's crime rates are trending down," Johnson told committee in a hearing room packed with reporters and onlookers. "We still have a long way to go, but sensationalizing tragedy in the name of political expediency is not govern-



This combination photo shows New York City Mayor Eric Adams, Feb. 20, 2025, in New York, from left, Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson, July 25, 2024, in Chicago, Denver Mayor Mike Johnston, May 3, 2024, in Denver and Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, Nov. 2, 2022, in Boston.

Associated Press

ing.

It's grandstanding."

There's no legal definition for sanctuary city policies, but they generally limit cooperation by local law enforcement with federal immigration officers. Courts have repeatedly upheld the legality of sanctuary laws.

Adams noted that New York's sanctuary policies do not allow the city to violate immigration law or hinder enforcement.

"New York City will always comply with city, state, and federal laws as it does now," he said.

Adams got some of the only praise from Republican lawmakers, with Comer thanking him for working with Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Adams' critics say his collaboration is part of an effort to wriggle out of federal corruption charges, though even before Trump was elected, the mayor called on city lawmakers to allow New York police to work more with ICE. The Trump administration ordered prosecutors to drop the case on the grounds that it was distracting Adams from helping the im-

migration crackdown and hindering his reelection campaign.

About two hours into the hearing, Democratic lawmakers began questioning him sharply over his work with the Trump administration and the dropped charges.

"Are you selling out New Yorkers to save yourself from prosecution?" asked Rep. Robert Garcia, of California.

"There's no deal, no quid pro quo. And I did nothing wrong," Adams said.

Denver's Johnston said that crime decreased when the city was faced with an influx of immigrants, many bussed from border states by Republican politicians. Like the other mayors, he also called for immigration reform that would make it easier for people to legally enter the U.S.

"If Denver can find a way to put aside our ideological differences long enough to manage a crisis we didn't choose or create, it seems only fair to ask that the body that is actually charged with solving this national problem this Congress can finally commit to do the same," he said.

Immigration laws, the mayors said, is a federal responsibility, and the attempt to put that responsibility on local law enforcement simply makes communities distrust the police and others they may need to call for help.

"This federal administration's approach is undermining that trust," said Wu, whose parents immigrated to the U.S. from Taiwan. "This federal administration is making hard-working, taxpaying, God-fearing residents afraid to live their lives."

"You belong here," Wu said, addressing immigrant communities in Boston. "This is your home."

The Republican majority last week released a nearly three-minute-long video previewing the hearing. It opens with images of the Constitution catching fire and burning, revealing photos of the four mayors. It goes on to show arrests by ICE agents of people who'd committed crimes in those cities interspersed with comments from the mayors and news stories showing negative impacts of migration surges.

The video ends with Comer threatening to cut the cit-

ies' federal funding if they don't cooperate with immigration enforcement.

In communities that don't cooperate on immigration, ICE agents go in to track down people after their release.

ICE argues that this is dangerous and strains resources.

Ohio Republican Rep. Jim Jordan grilled Johnston for a Denver arrest that he said required ICE agents to apprehend a man recently released from local custody, and mocked Johnston's insistence that his city was safe.

"That's a lie because it was not safer for the ICE agents who are part of your community. No way was it safer," he said.

Trump administration officials have also argued that if communities work with them on immigration enforcement, "collateral arrests" when ICE detains people other than those targeted are less likely.

"Sanctuary cities want to keep locking us out of jails," Trump's border czar, Tom Homan, told reporters recently.

"They force us into the neighborhood to find the bad guys.

When we find the bad guy, many times they're with others."

Advocates say that while ICE claims to target "the worst of the worst" meaning immigrants who've committed heinous crimes in the U.S. they end up going far beyond that, destabilizing communities.

But the Trump administration continues to target them and has sued Chicago and Illinois as well as New York state over various immigration laws. □

Supreme Court reinstates order for the Trump administration to un-freeze foreign aid

By **MARK SHERMAN**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A sharply divided Supreme Court on Wednesday reinstated a lower-court order for the Trump administration to release frozen foreign aid, but it was not clear how quickly money would start flowing.

By a 5-4 vote, the court rejected an emergency appeal from the Republican administration, while also telling U.S. District Judge Amir Ali to clarify his earlier order that required the quick release of nearly \$2 billion in aid for work that had already been done.

Although the outcome is a short-term loss for President Donald Trump's administration, the nonprofit groups and businesses that sued are still waiting for the money they say they are owed. Organizations in the U.S. and around the world have cut services and laid off thousands of workers as a result.

HIAS, one of the nonprofit groups in the case, said it was encouraged to see



Officials from USAID and WFP inspect a donation of \$11 million worth of food aid at a ceremony in Harare, Zimbabwe, Jan 17, 2024.

the Trump administration held accountable, but said it regretted "the irreparable damage that the Trump administration has already inflicted on our staff, the people we serve, and the reputation of the United States as a leader and a reliable partner."

The Maryland-based group

has worked on refugee issues for more than a century, including giving potential refugees support to stay in their home countries.

Justice Samuel Alito led four conservative justices in dissent, saying Ali lacks the authority to order the payments. Alito wrote that he is stunned the court is

rewarding "an act of judicial hubris and imposes a \$2 billion penalty on American taxpayers." The court's action leaves in place Ali's temporary restraining order that had paused the spending freeze, Ali is holding a hearing Thursday to consider a more lasting pause.

Associated Press

The majority noted that the administration had not challenged Ali's initial order, only the deadline, which in any event passed last week.

The court told Ali to "clarify what obligations the government must fulfill to ensure compliance with the temporary restraining order, with due regard for the feasibility of any compliance timelines."

Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Amy Coney Barrett, two conservatives, joined the three liberal justices to form a majority.

Justices Clarence Thomas, Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh joined Alito's dissent.

The Trump administration has argued that the situation has changed because it has replaced a blanket spending freeze with individualized determinations that led to the cancellation of 5,800 U.S. Agency for International Development contracts and another 4,100 State Department grants totaling nearly \$60 billion in aid. □

U.S. charges Chinese hackers, government officials in broad cyberespionage campaign

By **ERIC TUCKER**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Twelve Chinese nationals, including mercenary hackers, law enforcement officers and employees of a private hacking company, have been charged in connection with global cy-

berespionage campaigns targeting dissidents, news organizations, U.S. agencies and universities, the Justice Department announced Wednesday.

The U.S. Treasury Department, which disclosed a breach by Chinese actors late last year in what

it called a "major cybersecurity incident," was among the targets of the indicted hackers.

The indictments come as the U.S. government has warned of an increasingly sophisticated cyber threat from China, including a hack last year of telecom firms called Salt Typhoon that gave Beijing access to private texts and phone conversations of an unknown number of Americans, including U.S. government officials and prominent public figures.

One indictment charges leaders and founders of a private hacking company known as I-Soon, whose officials conducted a sweeping array of breaches around the world as part of what U.S. officials say was a broad intelligence-gathering operation. Among those named

in the indictment is Wu Haibo, who founded I-Soon in Shanghai in 2010 and was a member of China's first hacktivist group, Green Army.

The indictment contained new revelations about I-Soon's activities targeting a wide range of Chinese dissidents, religious organizations and media outlets based in the United States, including a newspaper identified as publishing news related to China and opposed to the Chinese Communist Party. Other targets included individual critics of China living in the U.S., the Defense Intelligence Agency and a research university.

Earlier AP reporting on leaked documents from I-Soon mainly showed I-Soon was targeting a wide range of governments such as India, Taiwan or

Mongolia, but little on the United States.

The targets were in some cases directed by China's Ministry of Public Security two law enforcement officers were also charged with tasking certain assignments but in other instances the hackers acted at their own initiative and tried to sell the stolen information to the government afterward, the indictment says.

The company charged the Chinese government the equivalent of between approximately \$10,000 and \$75,000 for each email inbox it successfully hacked, officials said. Phone numbers listed for I-Soon on a Chinese corporate registry rang unanswered, and I-Soon representatives did not immediately respond to an AP email requesting comment. □



The U.S. Department of Justice building is seen in Washington, Dec. 7, 2024.

Associated Press

Trudeau not willing to lift Canada's retaliatory tariffs if Trump leaves some tariffs on Canada

By **ROB GILLIES**
Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is unwilling to lift Canada's retaliatory tariffs on the United States if President Donald Trump leaves any U.S. tariffs on Canada, a senior government official told The Associated Press on Wednesday. The official confirmed Trudeau's stance on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly on the matter. The official said Trump and Trudeau spoke by phone around midday. Other Canadian officials publicly echoed Trudeau's position.

"We're not interested in meeting in the middle and having some reduced tariff. Canada wants the tariffs removed," Canadian Finance Minister Dominic LeBlanc told the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. Trump launched a new trade war Tuesday by imposing tariffs against Washington's three biggest trading partners, drawing immediate retaliation from Mexico,



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau holds a news conference on imposed U.S. tariffs in Ottawa on Tuesday, March 4, 2025.

Canada and China and sending financial markets into a tailspin. Trump put 25% taxes, or tariffs, on Mexican and Canadian imports, though he limited the levy to 10% on Canadian energy. A day after the new tariffs took effect, Trump said he would grant a one-month

exemption for U.S. automakers. The announcement came after Trump spoke Wednesday with leaders of Ford, General Motors and Stellantis, the parent company of Chrysler and Jeep. U.S. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick said exceptions might be considered

a statement that reflects a softening of the American position after the import taxes hurt the stock market and worried consumers. "There are going to be tariffs, let's be clear," Lutnick said in an interview Wednesday with Bloomberg Television. "But what he's thinking

about is which sections of the market that can maybe maybe he'll consider giving them relief until we get to, of course, April 2."

On April 2, Trump plans to announce what he calls "reciprocal" tariffs to match the tariffs, taxes and subsidies from other countries. That could dramatically increase the tariff rates charged globally while maintaining the risk of broader tariffs.

If the tariffs are not removed, Ontario Premier Doug Ford told AP, the American and Canadian auto industries will last approximately 10 days before they start shutting down assembly lines in the U.S. and Ontario.

"People are going to lose their jobs," Ford said.

Lutnick said he would talk Wednesday with Trump about the possible options regarding Canada and Mexico, saying that both countries are working to address the U.S. president's concerns about drug trafficking. Lutnick said he expected Trump to announce a decision Wednesday afternoon. □

Associated Press

North Korea appears close to completing its first airborne early warning aircraft

By **HYUNG-JIN KIM**
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea appears close to completing its first airborne early warning aircraft, satellite imagery showed, an asset that experts say will sharply bolster the country's air force power when it's deployed.

North Korea's nuclear and missile programs pose a significant security threat to South Korea, the U.S. and others. But its aerial surveillance capability is far behind those of its rivals, while most of its fighter jets and other military aircraft are aging.

38 North, a website specializing in North Korea studies, reported Tuesday that recent commercial satellite imagery showed an Ilyushin IL-76 aircraft parked at a Pyongyang airport, with a large radome mounted on

top of the fuselage. A radome refers to a structure that encircles a radar system.

It called the aircraft's near-completion "a significant upgrade for an air force that has not seen new airborne capabilities in years." The website said the radome has a distinctive triangle design on top, similar to what is seen on some Chinese airborne early warning aircraft, but not used on U.S. or Russian aircraft. "This could indicate support or influence from China, although the triangle alone is not conclusive proof," the website said.

The aircraft, which was one of three IL-76s previously used by North Korea's national airline, Air Koryo, was moved into the airport's maintenance facility in October 2023 before work began on a section on top of

the fuselage, the website said.

Last November, the aircraft, then without the radome, was moved into the adjacent hangar. It remained there until late this February, when it appeared outside the hangar with the radome mounted, according to the website. Jung Chang Wook, head of the Korea Defense Study Forum think tank in Seoul, said the aircraft would detect and track the movements of enemy planes and other military assets and relay information to land-based centers. If it has technology to distribute such information to its air and other assets and command their operations, it will help North Korea conduct military operations in a much faster manner.

"It's like the North Korean air forces opening their

eyes," Jung said.

He said that North Korea would need at least four airborne early warning aircraft to monitor South Korea 24 hours a day, as they can take turns to perform

surveillance missions, undergo maintenance and conduct training. He said South Korea has four U.S.-made airborne early warning and control aircraft and plans to buy four more. □



This undated photo provided on Sept. 13, 2024, by the North Korean government shows its leader Kim Jong Un, center, on an inspecting visit at what they say is an institute of nuclear weapons and a facility for nuclear materials at an undisclosed location in North Korea.

Associated Press

Trump says no one has heard of Lesotho. But Musk is trying to do business in the African nation

By **KEKETSO PHAKELA** and **GERALD IMRAY**
Associated Press

MASERU, Lesotho (AP) — U.S. President Donald Trump says no one has ever heard of Lesotho. The foreign minister of the small African kingdom tells The Associated Press that Trump should “speak for himself.”

“It is surprising and disappointing that he claimed no one knows Lesotho, especially given that the U.S. has an embassy here,” minister Lejone Mpotjoane said, a day after Trump’s dismissive comment in a speech to Congress caused some laughter. “He should speak for himself and not generalize.”

Mpotjoane said Trump appeared to pick on Lesotho because it isn’t a rich country but warned: “One day America may need Lesotho’s support.”

In fact, Trump’s key adviser Elon Musk has already sought it.

Trump mocked Lesotho while criticizing some U.S. foreign aid contracts as a waste of money in his



Elderly women leave the polling station after casting their vote in Thaba-Tseka District, 82km east of Maseru, Lesotho, Friday, Oct. 7, 2022.

Associated Press

99-minute speech on Tuesday.

“Eight million dollars to promote LGBTQI+ in the African nation of Lesotho, which nobody has ever heard of,” Trump said, struggling to pronounce the name correctly as Vice President JD Vance and House Speaker Mike Johnson, sitting behind him, grinned.

But Musk in September

was meeting with Lesotho’s prime minister, Sam Matekane, while trying to do business with the southern African nation.

Musk’s Starlink internet satellite service, a subsidiary of SpaceX, has applied for a license to operate in Lesotho. It’s one of several African countries where it is bidding to win contracts.

The Lesotho Communica-

tions Authority said last month it recently received Starlink’s bid for a 10-year license.

Musk was born in South Africa, which surrounds Lesotho and its 2.3 million people.

He met with Matekane on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. Matekane posted a photo on X of

them shaking hands. The message said in part: “Exciting developments lie ahead.”

Musk has been instrumental in the dismantling of the United States Agency for International Development in his role as head of the new Department of Government Efficiency.

Those cuts have threatened Lesotho’s HIV program and forced it to lay off at least 1,500 health workers about 7% of the country’s health staff in what the government has described as a severe blow. U.S. aid has been credited with helping Lesotho provide life-saving treatment to more than 200,000 people living with HIV.

Lesotho has received American assistance for nearly 20 years through USAID, which gave it over \$44 million last year.

The dismantling of the agency and widespread terminations of U.S. foreign aid contracts have hit Africa harder than any other region. □

International flights can land at airport in Haiti’s southwest for the 1st time

By **DÁNICA COTO**
Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — An airport in southwestern Haiti is ready to receive international flights for the first time, officials said Wednesday, adding a safer option for commercial airlines that have halted all flights to the main airport in Port-au-Prince, where gang violence persists.

The Antoine Simon Airport in the coastal city of Les Cayes, named after a Haitian president who led a rebellion in the early 1900s, operated for almost two decades before renovations began in 2013 to extend its runway.

It is now Haiti’s third international airport, a development that is expected to boost the local economy and provide a new way for

some nonprofits to distribute sorely needed aid.

“It’s really exciting,” said Wynn Walent, executive director of the Colorado-based nonprofit Locally Haiti, which operates in Haiti’s southwest. “For understandable reasons, folks

are focused on the challenges in Port-au-Prince, but there is so much that can be done in the south. This could be a big step in that direction.”

Hugh Aprile, Mercy Corps’ regional director for Latin America and the Carib-

bean, celebrated the new runway, saying it’s possible more organizations will base their teams in Les Cayes instead of Port-au-Prince. “Much of the needs are in the southern peninsula,” he said. “For us, this will be helpful.”

Leslie Voltaire, president of Haiti’s transitional presidential council, traveled to Les Cayes to unveil the renovated airport Wednesday, saying it would help develop sectors including tourism.

“Infrastructure is the basis of a country’s economic development,” he said.

Most people traveling to Haiti land at the international airport in the north coastal city of Cap-Haitien, then travel by land or helicopter to the capital.

The Toussaint Louverture

International Airport in Port-au-Prince remains open but commercial flights have been halted since gangs opened fire on three planes in November, slightly injuring a flight attendant.

The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration extended a ban on U.S. flights to Haiti’s capital until March 12.

It wasn’t immediately clear if U.S. commercial flights will use the redeveloped airport, nor if any international flights have landed yet on the extended runway at Les Cayes.

Local media reported that technicians from the U.S. airline JetBlue arrived in Les Cayes to inspect the runway. The company did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment. □



A police officer patrols the entrance of the Toussaint Louverture International Airport, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Nov. 12, 2024.

Associated Press

Best spots to view the sunset

(Oranjestad)—What can be more romantic than surprising your partner with a date watching the sunset? Aruba's sunset leave many speechless, and luckily, the best spots to view the sunset are entirely accessible and easy to find. Here are some of the best places to view the sunset on the island.

California Light House

Of course, being one of the highest points easily accessible to locals and tourists, the California Light House hill not only offers a tremendous view of the sunset, but also a breath taking scenery of most of the island. In the distance you can spot all the hotels, the western shoreline and the wild waves that crash on the northern side of the island.

Manchebo & Eagle Beach

Speaking of the western shoreline, the best spots for viewing the sunset on the beach has to be either Manchebo Beach or at

Eagle Beach, which stretch along the entire western coast of the island starting from behind Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort up to the Amsterdam Manor roundabout. The sunset on these beaches is truly breathtaking; the sky and ocean look so big and spacious, and paired with the orange/pink hue of the sunset, the white sandy beaches and the soft sounds of waves crashing—it can only be described as an experience!

Arashi Beach

Another beach that has to be considered as another great spot to view the sunset. Arashi Beach is the last beach you will find along the western coast line, just before you drive up the hill to the California Light House. A favorite for surfers and body boarders, the Arashi sky stretches out for miles, lending a spectacular canvas for the sun to create a masterpiece of orange, pink and purple hue.



Hooiberg Hill

These last two options are for more active couples. If you and your partner like to hike, the Hooiberg Hill may be a great place for you to get your daily workout in and enjoy a beautiful view of the sunset and the island as a little reward. Climb on top the 587-step stairs and reach the top to enjoy this incredible scenery.

Casibari Rock Formation

If you're a rock climber, you might enjoy watching the sunset on top of the Casibari Rock Formation. It's no Yosemite, but it does offer a fun little exercise to get to the top. But if you prefer not to get your hands a little dirty, you can always use the stairs in the back. □

Aruba's neighborhoods; the meaning behind their names

Just like any other country, Aruba has unique and beautifully named neighborhoods that all form a part of its culture and development. Many of these names have a historical background and meaning that teaches us about the island and its rich culture every day.

With this series, we want to take you on a journey of discovery, where you'll learn not only the beautiful names but the history behind it that gives it life and meaning.

Ayo

Ajo, or Ayo, is a word with Arawak-Indian origin. A (or Ha) is an Indo-Antillean generalizing word. If you were to change a part of the word "Ayo", namely 'Yo', to 'Yu' and make 'Ayu', it would mean "white."

However, as we now know, the name of the neighborhood is 'Ayo'. The word 'Yo' stands for Yocahu, which is another word for 'creator' in Ar-



awak/Taino and in the Papiamentu spoken today, 'Ayo' means 'bye'.

At Ayo, you can find some of the most well known rock formations. These formations became a well loved and visited attraction at Aruba that is held in high regards by both tourists and locals alike.

If you'd like to know more about the



rock formations at Ayo, stay tuned for our article where we tell you all

about its location and history.

This neighborhood's abbreviation is; A.

Alto Vista

This word combination can be roughly translated to a 'high point of view' and the neighborhood received this name from the Hill.

In the surrounding areas, Domingo-Antonia Silvestre built his by his own means the very first chapel or church of Aruba. The walls of this church were made with rocks but the roof was made of dry corn stalks. The church was inaugurated by father Pablo Algemesi

If you'd like to know more about the Alto Vista Church's beautiful history, stay tuned for our article where we tell you all you need to know about it for when you visit it. □

This neighborhood's abbreviation is; AV.



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Experience the modern twist of tradition at L'Avenue Belgian Bistro Aruba!



(Oranjestad)—Nuzzled up in a cozy nook of The Cove Mall in the sun-kissed paradise of Palm Beach, L'Avenue takes you on a journey to experience the true flavors of Belgium. Offering a selection of traditional Belgian and French cuisine, this bistro brings the old into the new against a backdrop of laid-back luxury.

The new kid on the block, L'Avenue currently holds a unique position in the island's culinary scene; being the only Belgian-owned, Belgian restaurant on the island. This winning hand is not obtained by many, and



L'Avenue's delicious menu and wide selection of Belgian beer, and European and New World wine emphasizes the bistro's unique vision to bring Europe into the palm of your hands!

Once part of the famous Taste of Belgium restaurant, L'Avenue offers a new point of view and brings a fresh life to what was once beloved by both locals and tourists. Crafted by Chef Juan Ludeña and his team, enjoy



a superb variety of classic Belgian and French dishes served with a touch of innovation for lunch and dinner, including stews, steak-house quality meat and their famous Moules-frites, served with a variety of delicious and rich broth.

As if that wasn't enough, enjoy your meal under warm, starry lights accompanied by live music performances every day, seated either in a relaxing and cool interior area of the restaurant, or outside against a backdrop of the bright, colorful lights of the Palm Beach strip!

More information

L'Avenue is situated at The Cove Mall in Palm Beach and is open every day from 11am to 10pm for lunch and dinner. To book a reservation or ask for more information, please contact their phone line at +297 6996400, send an e-mail info@lavenuearuba.com, or visit their website at lavenuearuba.com



Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said ma-

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Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from Brian Gampolo from Wintersville Ohio, USA.

He wrote to us saying: "Aruba to me is Beach Adventure!"

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers!

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Visit the natural bridges of Aruba!

(Oranjestad)—After you've visited the Alto Vista Church, the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins and the mini natural pool that is located right next to it, you're next up around the northern coast line must be the Natural Bridge. Once the largest natural bridge in the Caribbean, this bridge has been a tourist attraction for many years.

The bridge was formed during thousands of years, cut and crafted by the wild waves that crash into the coral stone walls of the coast. Before its collapse, this bridge measured 30 meters in length and 7 meters in height, making it the biggest natural bridge in the Caribbean at the time. For many years, this site was also a frequently visited beach, as the bridge had a small opening through which the water would flow into the tiny beach.



Unfortunately in 2005, the bridge collapsed, and the little beach dried up. Despite this, this site remained a tourist attraction, with many visitors walking along the coral cliffs of the bridge to see the spectacular view of the northern coastline and the Caribbean Sea. Visitors can also still visit the souvenir shop on the left of the



bridge entrance.

While the natural bridge no longer is functional, there is now a smaller natural bridge very close. This bridge is often called the "Baby Bridge" or "Daughter Bridge". □

Why You Should Not Miss Aruba's Free City Center Street Car Tour



ORANJESTAD - Aruba's City Center Street Car - or as we call it in Dutch; "Tram van Oranjestad" - is a single track tram line in Oranjestad, the capital city of Aruba. It was inaugurated on 22 December 2012, being the first and so far the only passenger rail service on Aruba and the

rest of the Dutch Caribbean. There are two trolleys, a single-deck one with 42 seats and a double-decker with 64 seats. The line was inspired by the popular battery-powered streetcar operation at the Grove in Los Angeles, USA. Aruba's streetcars are powered by hydrogen fuel

cells, which are charged by the island's year-round trade winds.

Caya Betico Croes, mostly referred to as our "main street" has been developed into a pollution-free pedestrian mall. The double-decker offers you a 360 degree view of the down town area with a picture perfect scenery of the island's clear blue skies. Who would not enjoy a ride on this beautiful and naturally air-conditioned vehicle? The tour consists of a total of 9 stops approximately 200 meters apart from each other; all stops are clearly marked. The tram will bring you close to different museums, historical plazas, monuments, the Protestant church, Aruba's high-end mall, retail shops, and a variety of local and international cuisine restaurants. The "I love Aruba" trademark also belongs to that list. The third stop on the

route is close to a 5-minute walk to the famous Renaissance Marina showcasing luxurious yachts and Aruba's blue waters.

The "Tram van Oranjestad" starts from a balloon loop near the Port of Call and

serves the downtown area and ends at Plaza Nicky. The first ride starts at 10:00 am sharp with intervals of 25minutes. The last trolley departs from the cruise port at 5:00pm. Don't miss this tour of the beautiful Aruba's City Center- it is free for all! □



Visit the island's popular cave sites!

(Oranjestad)—Among the endless sea of dark brown sand and cacti, there are two caves hidden in the outskirts of San Nicolas, in the north-eastern area of the island. These caves, The Quadiriki cave and The Fontein Cave are open to visitors of the Arikok National Park, so if you ever decide to take an “off-road” tour in the park, be sure to visit these prehistoric caves...and be sure to bring a flashlight!

Quadirikiri Cave

Known for its two chambers accompanied by a skylight, the Quadiriki Cave is the most popular cave among locals and tourists, as it is easy to walk through and provides great lighting for pictures.

As with all prehistoric or ancient sites, there is always a folk legend that adds to the lore and mystery of the site. The Quadirikiri cave is no different. The most well-known legend behind the cave could be considered as Aruba's first love story, as it tells the tale of the undying love between the chief's daughter and her beloved. As legend



would have it, the chief disapproved of his daughter's choice of lover, as he thought him unworthy. Stubborn and filled with anger, the daughter refused to turn away her beloved.

So, the chief decided to lock her up in the Quadirikiri Cave, in hopes that she would soon calm down and turn away her lover. Her beloved, in turn, was locked away in the Tunnel of Love (Now known as the Huliba Cave).

Through the pathways underneath the Tunnel of Love running up to the Quadiriki cave, the two love birds found each other, and refused to let each other go. Because of their

stubbornness, they both died in the Quadiriki Cave, their ascending spirits burning two holes in the ceiling of the cave. This is why the cave has two holes through which sunlight passes through to illuminate the chamber.

Though there have been discoveries of Amerindian drawing on the wall, these have mostly been ruined by vandalism. However, the Fontein Cave further up north, provides a better glimpse in prehistoric Amerindian paintings.

Fontein Cave

Longer than the Quadiriki Cave, the Fontein Cave contains pathways that stretch to the limestone walls further down. Here is also where prehistoric drawings can be seen. Though this cave does not have its own legend, this was speculated to have been occupied—or at least used by prehistoric Arawak settlers on the island for rituals and other spiritual ceremonies.



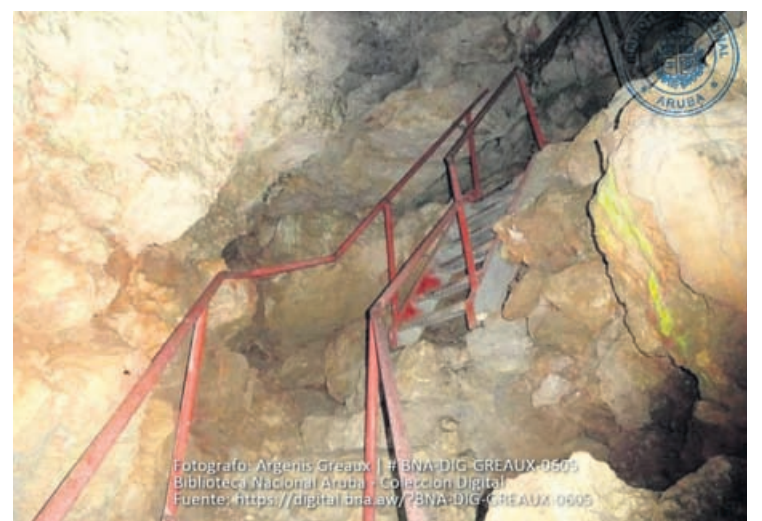
The Huliba Cave/ Tunnel of Love

The Huliba Cave, formerly known as the Tunnel of Love, was once open to the public, and was the biggest and most accessible of all three caves. This cave had five chambers, including one that is heart-shaped. This cave had narrow stairs that led to long pathways deep into the cave, with a staircase leading to the exit on the other side. In one of the chambers, there used to be the carving of the Virgin Mary, put there for the protection of the cave.

However, the Huliba Cave has been permanently closed for a few years now,

as a way to preserve the bat population that lives in the cave. These Long Tongue Fruit Bats and Insect Eater Bats are very important to the ecosystem of the island. Though this cave is no longer accessible to the public, it surely is interesting to learn more about the history of these caves and the Awarak tribes that resided or utilized them.

Do note that these caves are very dark, humid, hot, and are inhabited by bats. Do wear comfortable clothing and shoes, as the pathways in these caves may be rough and bumpy, and don't forget to bring a flashlight!☐



Visit the historic museum at Fort Zoutman!

(Oranjestad)—Located in the middle of downtown Oranjestad, situated right next to the government building “Cocolishi”, is one of the oldest buildings of Aruba: Fort Zoutman. First constructed in 1796, this site has been used (or left unused) in many ways and have survived eras of war and attempted dismantling.

When anyone refers to Fort Zoutman, they are actually referring to two separate buildings that, over the years, have been merged: the fort and the tower. That's right, the iconic 5-story, squared tower was not part of the original structure of the fort, and is actually called “Willem III Toren”. Constructed in 1867, this tower was named after the then-reigning king of The Netherlands, Willem III. Willem III Toren was originally a light tower, but after a request from Lieutenant Governor Jan Helenus in 1866, it also became a bell tower.

The fort itself was originally constructed to protect the commerce bay of Paardenbaai from pirates and other disreputable characters roaming the Caribbean Sea. Unlike the Willem III Toren, Fort Zoutman had a more tumultuous past,



including the on-and-off reception of unwanted members of the English military several times (The Netherlands was at constant war with England back in the colonial era). Over the years, both the fort and the tower had functioned as different government center points, including a tax and stamps office. For some time these two buildings also housed a police precinct and jail, and even experienced abandonment until the Cultural Center Aruba Foundation (CCA) petitioned for its renovation in 1964, turning the site into the Historic Museum it currently is.

Despite its small size, The Historic Museum guards a rich depository of the commercial, military and social history of Oranjestad, offering a glance into how the social culture of the town came to be. If you are interested in history and want to learn more about Aruba, then Fort Zoutman should definitely be included into your itinerary.

The museum is open Monday to Friday from 9am-6pm, and Saturday from 10am-2pm. □

Source: *The Old Fort of Aruba* by Jan Hartog.

Lessons from our elders:

Plants and fruits for medicinal use (part 2)

(Oranjestad)—In last week's edition, we shared with our readers some medicinal use for plants and fruits, passed down from our elders through generations. This week, we present two more uses of fruits and plants for medicinal use.

Sweet potato

According to our elders, sweet potato is mostly useful for low blood pressure. People who suffer from low blood pressure were advised

to eat sweet potato 2 to 3 times a week. However, if you have high blood pressure, it is best not to eat too much sweet potato, as this raises blood pressure. Sweet potatoes are also great for people who work hard labor jobs, and it's been said to be aid blood circulation in the body, as well as help those with hemorrhoids or diarrhea. Many of our elders opted to plant sweet potatoes themselves, mostly because of how easy it was to do so. Cut

the end of a sweet potato let it sit in shallow water until it starts to sprout. Then you may plant it in the ground. Sweet potatoes need plenty of water to grow, especially in the first week in the ground. It was said that once you start to notice the ground crack underneath the flowers, it is time to harvest. This should happen around month 3.

Pomegranate

Pomegranates are also one of the easier fruits to plant and harvest. Originated from Persia, this plant can grow almost everywhere. In Aruba, there are many homes that have a tiny or big pomegranate tree. You may be wondering what the difference is between a small and big pomegranate tree, for which the answer is based on harvest time. Tiny trees produce tinier pomegranates that can be harvested early on. Contrarily, big trees produce bigger pomegranates, but they need enough time to



fully ripen before harvesting, otherwise you might end up with bitter seeds. Pomegranate trees are also very easy to plant. In essence, if you just throw the seeds on the ground, they could grow into a tree.

In terms of medicinal use, pomegranate skins are said to have a few benefits for our health. According to customs, pomegranate skin tea can help those that suffer

from diarrhea. Dried pomegranate skin tea is also good for people who have worms. Pomegranate flowers can be boiled to make a drink and this can be used for irritated gums; just take a swig and let the tea sit in your mouth for a couple minutes. □

Source: *Remedi i Kustumber di nos Bieunan (Medicine and Customs of our Elderly)* by Dinah Veeris



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 43 Tenant's

1 Team fee

5 Bath bars

10 Dove calls **DOWN**

11 Wild 1 Low

cards, boat

some- 2 Hawk-

times eye's

12 Night fliers home

13 Scope 3 Pinhead

14 Slosy 4 Gist

sleepers 5 Perennial

16 Better battlers

than 6 Surpass

expected 7 Casino

20 Brawl card

23 Green of 8 Stock

"Casino holder

Royale" 9 Retired

24 Ran easily plane

25 Bowling 11 Red-ink

challenge items

27 Band 15 Map line

blaster

28 Relaxed

29 Tongue

part

32 Risky

investing

move

36 Showed,

informally

39 Orpheus

played

one

40 Right

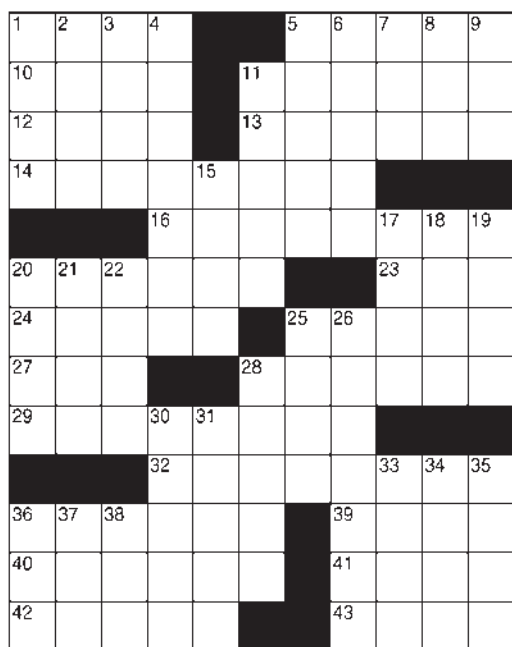
away

41 Harrow

rival

42 "Oleanna"

playwright



3-7

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

3-7 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

OTMD TB ZYAPVG UAG MQXGV YZC

UAUUODB, GEX GVTZPB BGYZC

OTWD BGXZD: WTZCZDBB TZ

YZXGVDQ'B GQXAUODB;

LXAQYPD TZ XAQ XEZ. — YCYK

OTZCBYF PXQCXZ

Cryptoquote: THE REGRET OF MY
LIFE IS THAT I HAVE NOT SAID "I LOVE YOU"
OFTEN ENOUGH — YOKO ONO

Cruise ship Schedule: March 1 - 8 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
SAT	01	STAR PRIDE	06.00	18.00	B	1
		THE WORLD	09.00	****	C	1
SUN	02	AIDAPERLA	08.00	18.00	B	1
		THE WORLD - DEPT.	****	23.00	C	-
		CELEBRITY BEYOND	09.00	21.00	I	1
MON	03	CELEBRITY ECLIPSE	08.00	****	B	1
		EMERALD PRINCESS	09.00	18.00	C	1
TUE	04	CELEBRITY ECLIPSE - Dept.	****	21.00	B	-
		CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	C	1
		CELEBRITY REFLECTION	08.00	21.00	I	1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
WED	05	MARELLA DISCOVERY	08.00	20.00	B	1
		AIDABELLA	10.00	22.00	C	1
THU	06	CORAL PRINCESS	08.00	17.00	C	1
FRI	07	NORWEGIAN JEWEL	11.30	20.30	C	1
SAT	08	SEVEN SEAS GRANDEUR	10.00	23.00	C	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

Supermarket hours



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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Google leans further into AI-generated overviews for its search engine

By **MICHAEL LIEDTKE**
AP Technology Writer

Google is updating its ubiquitous search engine with the next generation of its artificial intelligence technology as part of an effort to provide instant expertise amid intensifying competition from smaller competitors.

The company announced Wednesday that it will feed its Gemini 2.0 AI model into its search engine so it can field more complex questions involving subjects such as computer coding and math.

As has been the case since last May, the AI-generated overviews will be placed above the traditional web links that have become the lifeblood of online publishers dependent on traffic referrals from Google's dominant search engine.

Google is broadening the audience for AI overviews in the U.S. by making them available to teenage searchers without requiring them to go through a special sign-in process to see them.

The stage is also being set for what could turn out to be one of the most dramatic changes to the search engine's interface



Audience members gather at Made By Google for new product announcements at Google on Aug. 13, 2024, in Mountain View, Calif.

since Google co-founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin started the company in a Silicon Valley garage during the late 1990s.

Google is going to begin a gradual rollout of an "AI mode" option that will result in the search engine generating even more AI overviews. When search is in AI mode, Google is warning the overviews are likely to become more conversational and sometimes head

down online corridors that result in falsehoods that the tech industry euphemistically calls "hallucinations."

"As with any early-stage AI product, we won't always get it right," Google product vice president Robby Stein wrote in a blog post that also acknowledged the possibility "that some responses may unintentionally appear to take on a persona or reflect a particular opinion."

More stringent guardrails are supposed to be in place to prevent AI mode from steering people in the wrong direction for queries involving health and finance.

The need for additional fine tuning is one reason Google is initially only offering AI mode in its experimental Labs section, and only subscribers to its \$20-per-month Google One AI Premium will be al-

lowed to test it out at first. But these tests almost always result in the technology being released to all comers a goal that Google is pursuing in response to AI-powered search engines from ChatGPT and Perplexity.

Google's amped-up usage of more sophisticated AI overviews is likely to amplify worries that the summaries will make web surfers even less likely to click on links to take them to sites with useful information on the topic. Those traffic referrals are one of the main ways that online publishers attract the clicks needed to sell the digital ads that help finance their operations.

Google executives insist AI overviews are still driving traffic to other sites by driving up people's curiosity so they engage in more queries to learn more, resulting in more clicks to other publishers.

But those reassurances haven't placated publishers who believe that Google will be the main beneficiary of AI overviews, further enriching an internet empire that already generates more than \$260 billion in annual ad revenue. □

Associated Press

Digg to relaunch with focus on 'humanity and connection'

By **BARBARA ORTUTAY AP**
Technology Writer

Before Reddit there was Digg, which popularized up- and down-votes on online posts. Now the founders of both plat-

forms social media veterans Kevin Rose and Alexis Ohanian are relaunching the early Reddit rival with a focus on "humanity and connection" they hope will be boosted by the use of

artificial intelligence.

Rose founded Digg, which launched in 2004 and let people up- and down-vote ("Digg" or "bury") content from users and from sources around the web. At its peak, it had 40 million monthly users a high number for the time considering that Facebook only hit 100 million in 2008.

Digg was divvied up and sold in 2012, with many of its assets and patents acquired by LinkedIn. Reddit, which launched in 2005 and was co-founded by Ohanian, took a similar approach to let users vote on what they thought was the best and worst content on the site.

But much has changed since 2012 not just when it

comes to advances in artificial intelligence but also how people treat each other online.

"The social space online is definitely harsher, it feels like, than it's ever been before," said Justin Mezzell, who will serve as the new company's CEO. "It feels really difficult to connect. I think the platforms have gotten more disconnected. You know, if ever there was a true town hall of the internet, it feels like it has been deconstructed in a pretty big way."

Digg's new leaders say they want to use artificial intelligence to "handle the grunt work" of running a social media site while allowing humans to focus on building meaningful online communities. The ques-

tion, Mezzell said, is how to get people to "show up and have conversations, to learn from each other, to share something they're passionate about and do it earnestly?" Especially when some of today's social media algorithms "exist really just optimize for outrage."

Rose said Digg will take a more nuanced approach to content moderation than banning or not banning content, which is a process that can be easy to get around.

"There is a world where, you know, you show up in (a) meditation (group) and you're swinging four-letter words all over the place, and you hit submit," he said. □



Alexis Ohanian poses for a photo on the red carpet at the Women's Sports Foundation's Annual Salute to Women in Sports, Oct. 12, 2022, in New York.

Associated Press

Variety is the spice that has Alex Ovechkin fast approaching Wayne Gretzky's NHL career goals record

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**

AP Hockey Writer

ARLINGTON, Va. (AP) —

Wayne Gretzky was so able to control hockey games from behind the net that the area became known as "Gretzky's office," as he put up more assists than anyone else in NHL history has points.

Alex Ovechkin has scored so many goals with his patented one-timer from the left faceoff circle on the power play that it became known as his spot. Retired goaltender Eddie Lack referred to it as the "Ovizoid." Just like with Gretzky, whose record of 894 goals he is closing in on breaking, Ovechkin's brilliance comes not from one shot but rather the variety with which he has scored over his two-decade-long career. He has the most career power-play goals and the most empty-netters and soon will pass Gretzky for tops on the overall list thanks to an evolution of his game that has seen him score from more places on the ice in his 20th season than previous years.

"Everyone talks about his spot, but he scores goals from everywhere," said St. Louis coach Jim Montgomery, who played against Gretzky in North America and then briefly faced a young Ovechkin in Russia. "The true test to his intelligence and creativity is the fact that he's done it for so many years as the league has continued to change."



Washington Capitals left wing Alex Ovechkin (8) shoots the puck during the third period of an NHL hockey game against the St. Louis Blues, Thursday, Feb. 27, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press

According to NHL Edge puck and player tracking data, Ovechkin has put a shot on net from 15 of the 16 quadrants in the offensive zone and scored from 11 of them.

That is a testament to Ovechkin, now 39 and scoring at a rate almost never seen at this age, adjusting to how opponents defend him and fooling goaltenders in different ways. He has scored on a league-record 181 goalies, adding six new ones to that list this season.

"He shoots hard, he can shoot through you, so it makes it more difficult, especially when it's coming from a bunch of different angles," said Logan Thomp-

son, in his first season as a teammate of Ovechkin's with the Washington Capitals after being the 160th netminder he beat along the way. "He's always finding a way to get it through and he makes it really tricky on goalies. There's really no method on how to stop him."

For the defenders tasked with trying to contain Ovechkin, the approach changes with the situation. From his spot, everyone knows what is coming because he has scored 320 times on the power play 46 more than the next closest. At even strength, where Ovechkin has scored 495 of his 884 goals and counting, the challenge is keeping

an eye on him knowing he has what Blues goalie Jordan Binnington called an "on-off release" and can fling the puck at the net unexpectedly at times.

"I'm not really sure where he shoots it from, and it just finds a way to go in the net," said Ottawa defenseman Nick Jensen, who played parts of six seasons with Ovechkin on the Capitals. "He's been doing it for so long that I can't really explain it. It's kind of a phenomenon a little bit or an anomaly. But he's been doing it for so long, and he continues to do this year." Ovechkin reached the 30-goal mark again this season, the record 19th time he has done that, one of

the biggest reasons the Capitals are among the top teams in the league. He has thrived alongside 20-something linemates Dylan Strome and Aliaksei Protas, who have embraced the role of getting Ovechkin the puck as much as reasonably possible.

"He can pretty much get his shot off anywhere," said Strome, who assisted on 17 of Ovechkin's first 31 goals. "He's been scoring in front of the net or even some wrist shots from the other side. I think the more shot volume the better. It's good when you come out of a game and see like 12 or 13 shot attempts and seven or eight on net. Usually good things happen when there's that many chances."

Ovechkin has put more shots on net than any player in league history, and the only reason he's not again in the top 10 this season is that he missed 16 games with a broken left leg. Quality over quantity, perhaps, as he is scoring at a career-best shooting rate of 18.1 percent.

According to NHL statistics, Ovechkin has gotten seven different types of shots on net: 62 snap, 50 wrist, 36 slap, 10 backhand, 10 tips, two deflections and one between the legs.

Fourteen goals have come on snap shots, eight on wrist shots, five on slap shots, three on backhanders and one on a tip. □

Seahawks star wide receiver D.K. Metcalf has requested a trade, AP source says

By **WILL GRAVES**

AP Sports Writer

D.K. Metcalf wants out of Seattle.

A person with knowledge of the decision tells The Associated Press that the longtime Seahawks wide receiver has asked for a trade.

The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the request was not announced publicly.

Metcalf, a two-time Pro Bowler, has caught

438 passes for 6,324 yards and 48 touchdowns in six seasons with the Seahawks.

The 27-year-old Metcalf has one year remaining on his current contract, which has three voidable seasons after 2025. He's currently scheduled to count nearly \$32 million against the salary cap next year.

Metcalf's request was made public on the same day Seattle cut veteran wide receiver Tyler Lockett in a salary cap-saving move. □



Seattle Seahawks wide receiver DK Metcalf (14) warms up before an NFL football game against the Arizona Cardinals, Sunday, Dec. 8, 2024, in Glendale, Ariz.

Associated Press

LeBron James becomes first to score 50,000 combined points in NBA regular season and playoffs

By GREG BEACHAM

AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — LeBron James is well on his way to rewriting every previous definition of basketball longevity, and the 40-year-old star is now racking up numbers the NBA has never seen before.

James became the first player to score 50,000 combined points in the regular season and post-season on Tuesday night, surpassing the mark with a 3-pointer early in the first quarter of the Los Angeles Lakers' 136-115 win over New Orleans.

James finished with 34 points against the Pelicans after toppling another milestone in his unprecedented career.



Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James gestures after making a 3-point basket to go over the 50,000 career point mark during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the New Orleans Pelicans, Tuesday, March 4, 2025, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

"I mean, that's a lot of points," James said afterward, rubbing his beard in wonder.

"Obviously, the first thing that comes to mind is where I'm from.

Picking up the game when I was a little kid and having a love for the sport, and hoping that someday I'd be able to play at the highest level. I've been able to do that and really enjoy my career. So it's definitely an honor. It's pretty cool to see that."

James already is the top scorer in NBA history in both the regular season and the playoffs.

Maintaining a spectacular level of play midway through his record-tying 22nd season, he is pulling away from the other greats of the game: Lakers great Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, who played 20 seasons, is a now-distant second with 44,149 combined points.

James got his milestone 3-pointer off an assist by Luka Doncic, a trivia tidbit that pleased both superstars. Doncic's arrival in last month's seismic trade with the Dallas Mavericks has invigorated both James and the Lakers, who look like championship contenders with a seven-game winning streak and 17 victories in their last 20 games.

"It's amazing, watching him do this stuff at this age," said Doncic, who had 30 points, 15 assists and eight rebounds against New Orleans.

"It's just unbelievable, that 50K points.

I can't even explain how insane that is.

He might get to 70K. You never know."

The Lakers recognized the milestone at the next timeout, with public address announcer Lawrence Tanter saying:

"Ladies and gentlemen, we all have just witnessed history." James acknowledged the standing ovation with several waves from the bench.

James is tied with Vince Carter for the most seasons played in NBA history. □



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